# The Malaysia Message

SINGAPORE
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
1951

The New Hinghua Ba Church

## THE SARAWAK JUBILEE NUMBER FEATURING FIFTY YEARS OF METHODISM IN SARAWAK, BORNEO

v. 55:8/9

"Great excitement this morning, John!"

**"Do tell me the worst, Susan, quickly—"**

"Nothing drastic at all—Margaret saw her first big butterfly and was thrilled to bits!"

**"Perhaps we'd better make her a lepidopterist!"**

"If that means what I *think* it does, I'm rather doubtful of her success—she thought it was a bird—she said it has wings so it *must* be a bird!"

**"Obviously, I must have lots of birds in the bank!"**

"We are not amused; but talking of connoisseurs in general—"

**"Of birds or butterflies?"**

"Of *cheese* . . . I've bought your special *Emmenthal*—just to build up your connoisseur-ish ego!"

**"Plenty of cider to go with it?"**

"Of course!"

**"PLUMROSE"** *Emmenthal* **CHEESE**

**$1.15: 8 oz. Singapore**

*Singapore Cold Storage Co., Ltd.*

# The Malaysia Message

**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1951**

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# Important Notices

## ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

BISHOP R. L. ARCHER has appointed the Rev. T. Thangaraj of Rangoon, Burma, and Mr. Ee Soon Howe, of Singapore, as the official delegates from the Southeastern Asia area to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference to be held at Oxford in England, August 28—September 7.

## VISITOR

MISS LOUISE ROBINSON, Secretary for Malaya and China of the Women's Division of Christian Service will arrive in Rangoon on September 20. She will come to Malaya about October 10 and later go to Sumatra and Borneo to visit mission work and W.D.C.S. missionaries.

## ECUMENICAL SUNDAY

THE MALAYAN CHRISTIAN COUNCIL calls the attention of all ministers to Sunday, 30 September, which is to be observed as our second Ecumenical Sunday of the year. It is hoped that every pastor will endeavour to affect an exchange of pulpits with a minister of another denomination in the Malayan Christian Council.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LIFE SERVICE?

TRINITY COLLEGE re-opens on October 1st offering opportunity to train for the Christian ministry, for the Ministry of music, for Kindergarten-teacher training and other forms of full-time Christian service. Is Christ calling YOU young man, young woman?

## WORLD-WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, 7 OCTOBER, will be *World-Wide Communion Sunday* beginning in New Zealand at 10.30 that morning. It is hoped that every pastor will endeavour to bring his entire congregation to the Lord's Table that day where we will be a part of the great international fellowship of believers around the world. There will not be an hour in the entire day when there will not be a great multitude of Christians in some part of the world seated or kneeling at His Holy Table and partaking of the sacred emblems. It will be the twelfth time that Christians around the world will be thinking of each other in fellowship with Christ. By your presence at the Lord's Table you will help bear a united witness to the other in fellowship with Christ.

## THE PLAY CONTEST

HAVE YOU sent in your manuscripts for the play on "Brotherhood." Manuscripts should be submitted on plain white paper. Names of writers should not appear on manuscripts but should be submitted on separate sheets. The contest closes on November 30. Prizes will be given for the three best plays. Post manuscripts to Miss B. Lawrence, P.O. Box 483, Singapore. First Prize—$30; Second Prize—$20; Third Prize—$10.

● *Extracts from the sermon preached on the occasion of the Jubilee Celebration at Sibu, June 27, 1951.*

# Our Methodist Pulpit

## FACING THE NEW DAY

*BISHOP R. L. ARCHER*

WE are assembled here this morning to celebrate the completion of fifty years of work by *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak. They have been eventful years, characterized by encouraging growth and many evidences of abiding progress in the social, economic and spiritual life of the community. Doubtless the older members of our churches will spend a good bit of time reviewing the past and reliving its vital experiences. But it is not simply to reminisce that we are gathered here. The past fifty years constitute a record now complete and closed. We are unable to go back over it and improve on our blunders or correct our mistakes. However, we can profit by the experience of the past by making a better record in the future. Today we stand in the doorway of a new half-century. When the time comes to celebrate the second fifty years of Sarawak Methodism will the record show that we have done as well as did those who laboured here during the earlier years? If we wish to do honour to our forefathers then we must see to it that the record of the second half-century is a distinct improvement over the first.

When contemplating this jubilee celebration we are reminded of the words of St. John found in Revelation 21;1 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.*

No doubt St. John, during his hours of banishment on the lonely isle of Patmos, had many occasions to ponder the experiences of his earlier life, but the record which he leaves to us in the Revelation is not the memory of the "good old days," rather it is concerned with the vision of a new earth and a new heaven. One can well understand that as St. John contemplated the injustices, cruelty, tyranny and hostility existing in the first earth he could readily see the necessity for a new earth. One may wonder however, why the need for a new heaven? Of course we are unable to look into the mind of the writer of this scripture and understand clearly the ideas which he intended to convey by these figures of speech, yet I am quite sure that we are safe in saying that in this new heaven and new earth there was to be experienced a new relationship between God and man. The old relationship of Creator and creature dwelling apart was to be replaced by the more intimate relationship of Father and son. So St. John said, *I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, and a voice out of heaven saying, 'Lo, God's dwelling place is with man'* (Moffatt).

We feel sure that St. John must have meant that the first heaven and the first earth with their impassable barriers must now give way under the revelation of Christ to a new heaven and a new earth in which there can be free intercourse between God and man. In order to make that possible he has a conviction that God's chief dwelling place must not be limited to the unapproachable heaven, but must be with men as they pursue their duties in the new earth. With the clear eye of the true prophet St. John sees that there must be an intermingling of heaven and earth in the new day. Did not Christ refer to this when he taught his disciples to pray, *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

As we look out in the open we see the horizon; the line at which the material earth seems to meet the immaterial sky. In like manner there is for each of us a spiritual horizon; a line where the actual and the ideal come together. All around us we are confronted with duties, the hard realities of the facts of life, with labour and with all the problems of living. But if we are Christian there is more to be found in life than that. Through faith we can live in a world of ideals and have fellowship with God as the Father of all. This earth offers us a hopeless round of tiresome duties unless by faith and vision it is sanctified and used for higher service. We must ever move towards that spiritual horizon where the daily practice of Christian living increasingly approaches the goal of Christian perfection which should be the normal ambition of every Christian believer. Thus, we build for ourselves the new earth as we recognize it to be the dressing place for the new heaven.

Let us now apply this lesson to our growing church here in Sarawak as we continue to look into the future.

In the early days following the founding of the Foochow settlement here the problems which gave the young church great concern were chiefly economical. How could these early pioneers find support for themselves and at the same time provide for the church and its ministry. We are not worried so much today about finance, but we are seriously concerned about the inroads of that materialistic philosophy which would destroy man's spiritual birthright and replace his loyalty to God by a loyalty to a totalitarian state. This problem can be more insidious and more damaging than that faced by the early settlers. If we are to carry forward the work of Christ so nobly advanced by those who have gone before us then we must rededicate ourselves and our

(*Concluded on page 19*)

# THE MALAYSIA MESSAGE

**OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, MALAYSIA**

VOL. ~~56~~ 55 SINGAPORE, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1951 NO 8 & 9

# EDITORIAL

THE ANCIENT HEBREWS ACCORDING to the Hexateuch, that is the first six books of the Old Testament, observed every fiftieth year (the close of each seven seven-year period) as a year of rest and marked the same by certain ritualistic and social customs. The Christian Church has adopted this word "Jubilee" and has used it to mark the fiftieth anniversary of churches, institutions, and the founding of its work in various places. Thus in 1935 *The Methodist Church* in Malaya celebrated its Jubilee and was fortunate to have present the founders of *Methodism* in this part of the world, the late Bishop and Mrs. William F. Oldham.

SARAWAK JUBILEE YEAR

And now this year *The Methodist Church* in Borneo has celebrated its Jubilee with very fitting ceremonies described elsewhere in this issue, that took place on June 27 and 28. We are proud of the advance our Church has made during these fifty years and we congratulate the leaders and members of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak.

### A WIDE OPEN FIELD

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN SARAWAK faces a tremendous challenge. It has already brought to many sections of the great island of Borneo the things which the gospel inevitably brings with it, namely, enlightenment, democratic ways of living, and the Christian way of life. *The Methodist Church* has wisely concentrated its efforts in the great Rejang River Valley and tributaries of this river. Wherever a *Methodist* church has been opened a school has likewise been opened. This same policy is still being continued not only among the Chinese but now also among the Iban (Dyak) people.

One fact however becomes abundantly clear as one sees the actual working of this church/school system among the Chinese people of the Rejang Valley and that is that the schools have been very largely divorced from the actual oversight and *Discipline* of *The Methodist Church*. Following the usual custom found in Chinese private schools throughout this part of Asia our schools in Sarawak are managed by school committees. It often happens now that the members of these committees have no relationship to *The Methodist Church* at all, and sometimes are not even interested in the propagation of the Christian gospel. It is therefore essential that, just as soon as possible, this school committee system be changed and that we incorporate there the same kind of system as we have in Malaya, where the schools are directly responsible to the Education Department through a Mission liason officer, known as the Educational Secretary.

It will take tact and patience to achieve this result but until we do we should not call most of these schools by the name *Methodist*. In actual fact only the schools in Sibu alone are run as our Methodist schools ought to be run. The Sarawak Church as it looks ahead to its next fifty years realises that it must make right the mistakes of the past and come fully under the *Discipline* which is the final authority of our Church. The Sarawak Church has already made a great advance in the fact that it now has one District Superintendent entirely locally supported as well as eighteen full-time ministers. The churches there at first were ministered to by men who were teachers six days of the week and pastors on Sunday.

### MISSIONARY PERSONALITIES

IT WAS, OF COURSE, to be expected that during the Jubilee celebrations, in particular in the public meeting and in the pageant, the late Rev. James M. Hoover and his wife Mrs. Mary Y. Hoover (now living in Perth) should receive their just due of praise and appreciation. Space elsewhere did not permit a full history of others who have truly ministered in the footsteps of the Hoovers. Mention must be made of the late Rev. Gerald V. Summers who chose to remain in Singapore before the fall of the city and who later died in internment. Mr. Summers and Mrs. Summers and family (who are now living in Redlands, California) faithfully ministered, in particular, to the Chinese Churches of Sarawak, and Mr. Summers had a great deal to do with the Methodist English School which is now housed in the building known as the Summer's Memorial. Mention must also be made of the Rev. and Mrs. Paul H. Schmucker who were in Sibu during a furlough of the Summers and who were the pioneers in our work among the Iban people, opening that work in 1939 and establishing the first Iban Methodist School in 1940. Since the war the Rev. and Mrs. Eugene O. McGraw have served in Sibu. Mr. McGraw is very similar to the late Rev. J. M. Hoover in his practical ability and it was under his able direction that the new buildings on Island Road in Sibu Town, and those on the Telephone Road Site, have been constructed. Mr. and Mrs. John Pilley came to Sibu two years ago from Foochow, China, and have had a great deal to do with the firm establishment of the Methodist English School as well as assisting with the building up of the Chinese Methodist High School.

### KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS NEEDED BY THE CHURCH

TRINITY COLLEGE now offers a full three-year Kindergarten-teacher training course under fully qualified teachers. Young women graduates from our schools, who are interested, should write at once for the descriptive folder. The Methodist Church ought to have good kindergartens in all places where we have day schools, but we must have trained teachers to supervise them.

*The first jungle school of our Iban work is described here.*

# The Gospel Comes to a Longhouse

*H. B. AMSTUTZ*

*—Hugh Chen*

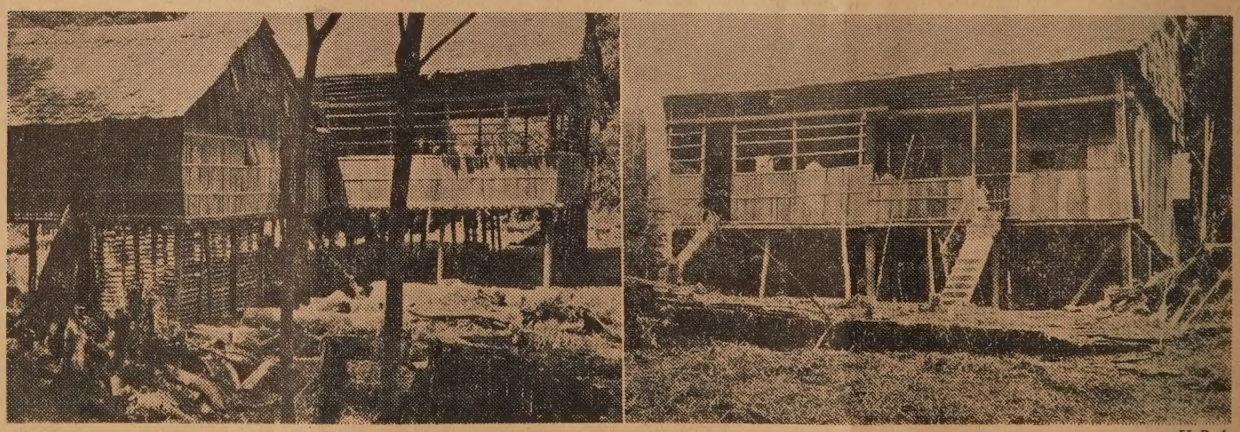
**The people of Penghulu Sibat's longhouse after the service of worship led by Mr. Djaleb Manoeroeng**

DURING OUR VISIT to the longhouse of Penghulu Sibat in August 1950 we were taken to see the site which the Penghulu and his people had offered for a new school. Several timbers had already been brought to the site by men from surrounding longhouses as their contribution to the project.

Since then, the work has gone ahead and the project was completed in February of this year and the new school, called the Nanga Meluan Methodist Iban School, was opened in March with Mr. Djaleb Manoeroeng as teacher. It stands immediately behind the longhouse on land which is higher than the longhouse and fairly level. The building, as seen in the pictures, is similar in construction to that of the longhouses. It stands on posts well above the ground and the main building on the left houses the school with a dormitory in the loft upstairs, and on the right, the residence of the teacher and his family. The residence consists of a verandah, living-room and bedroom. Behind the main structure is the cook-house which serves the boys' hostel as well as the teacher and family.

We arrived at the school shortly before closing time. It was Monday morning, July 9th; the school was in session with 30 boys and girls sitting at their desks learning to sing a hymn under the able direction of their Batak teacher, Djaleb. The children, similar to those in our school at Kapit, were neatly dressed, many of them in clothes taken from Church World Service bags, and presented a marked contrast to the way in which they are normally dressed when at home in their longhouses. Eight boys live at the school and their sleeping quarters are ideal, for it is cool and comfortable in the big loft above the classroom. These boys bring their own rice and do their own cooking under the supervision of Mrs. Manoeroeng. Their teacher, Djaleb, is not only a good teacher and pastor, but also a good provider. He is an expert fisherman and also an expert hunter and very often provides fish, wild pig and rusa (a local deer) for the meals, not only for the boys in the hostel, but also for his own family.

As usual, that night a service of worship was held in the large enclosed verandah of Penghulu Sibat's longhouse. Under the light of two or three storm lanterns most of the people of the longhouse assembled together with the 30 children from the school. Djaleb, neatly dressed in shorts and shirt, conducted the service of worship and the writer had the privilege of bringing the message, which was interpreted by the Rev. Burr Baughman, our missionary in charge of the Iban work. I shall never forget that evening as I watched and listened, in particular, to those school children who knew by heart the hymns which we sung, the Lord's Prayer, and also the Creed. It was exactly ten years ago that I first visited in that longhouse and how different the scene. Ten years ago no one there knew anything about the gospel of Jesus Christ nor the love of God, our Heavenly Father, for



*—H.B.A.*

**Side and front views of the new Methodist Iban school and teacher's residence at Nanga Meluan**

—*Anna Studio*

**Typical river scene in Sarawak showing the rugged rocks and rapids through which our missionaries have to travel as they visit the Iban longhouses**

his children. Almost every boy carried a fighting cock in his arm and playing with these cocks was a favourite pastime. But this night I saw nearly 200 people sitting quietly and reverently through this service, many of them already baptised in the Christian faith and able to participate in the service. Kumbang's little daughter was ill but insisted on coming to the service. She was seated on the lap of her mother who was neatly dressed in sarong and kebaya. Again and again my eyes wandered to this little girl, who, even though she was quite ill, sang every word of every verse of the hymns and participated throughout in that service. (Her father is an old friend of the writer). It was a wonderful experience to see the expressions on the faces of the men and women and the school children that night while I was telling them the story of the little slave girl who helped Naaman to find healing and help from her God, the God of Israel.

These Iban people, among whom our missionaries minister, live in a vast area beyond Kapit. It may seem romantic and thrilling to read descriptions of these upriver trips and to see moving pictures which have been taken of the same, but the actual experience is usually far from romantic. Sitting cramped in a small longboat hour after hour as your motor propels you upriver or downriver gets very tiring and almost always, at least on all the trips that I have made, the water is so low that the rapids have to be forded on foot and the boats pulled through the rapidly running water as you stumble and fall on the stones under foot. Every night as you sleep in the longhouse of a friendly Penghulu you lie down desperately weary, every bone in your body aching from the unaccustomed and hard river trip all the long day. But there are rewards. First of all the reward of friendship and fellowship. How welcome you are to their homes; the best they have is yours. Their best food, chicken, and sometimes rusa (deer), is offered to you together with the delicious hill rice which they eat, and when it comes time to go to sleep their best mats, and sometimes mattresses, together with pillows and mosquito nets, are given to you; the hosts having to shift for themselves either in the kitchen or elsewhere in order that you may have a comfortable sleep. Weariness brings sleep in spite of the uneven floor below your mats and in spite of the incessant squealing of the pigs underneath the longhouse the night-long barking of the dogs, and the crying of the children. And to see what it means to have Christ come into their lives is a reward such as no other reward ever can be: these young boys and girls avidly and eagerly absorbing all they can get in our two Iban schools; the difference in the lives and characters of their fathers and mothers; the development of personality as character deepens, and as Christian experience enlarges, is always a beautiful thing, and perhaps more marked in the lives of these primitive people than in those among whom we usually move.

It is also dangerous to go up and down these rivers. The one picture shows the rugged rocks and the rapids through which one's boat must be guided as you go up and down the river and illustrates a little of the danger that our missionaries constantly live among. The Dyak men are marvellous boatmen and know their rivers intimately but sometimes comes the terrible moment when a longboat is splintered on the sharp edge of a hidden rock and everyone is thrown into the river.

Last year we returned from Penghulu Sibat's longhouse to Kapit on the crest of raging flood. This was

—*H.B.A.*

**Rev. Lucius Mamoera, Mrs. Mamoera and five of their children in the garden of their home at Nanga Mujong**

**Mr. Djaleb Manoeroeng and the Nanga Meluan School**

the most dangerous of all the experiences I have had, but fortunately the Iban boatmen brought us safely back.

Back in Kapit once again, after four very strenuous days up and down the rivers that carried us to Penghulu Jugah's and Penghulu Sibat's longhouses, we were warmly welcomed by the children in our Kapit School. Heavy bags were willingly carried up the very steep and high hill on which the mission buildings stand . Refreshing baths and comfortable beds once again awaited us and also the wonderful meals which Mrs. Baughman always provides.

That evening we shared in the beautiful home life of this Methodist Iban School. After we had dined the the boys and girls began to come into the living-room/

**Upper Class girls in the Methodist Iban School, Kapit**

dining-room. They know where the games are kept asd each went to get the game he or she desired. The smaller ones seated themselves on the floor 'or sat in chairs surrounding those already busily at play. The older ones brought in their "home work" and found places at the dining-room table while at one corner of this table Khuan Seng and a student played draughts. At nine o'clock, with hardly a word from "Ma," as Mrs. Baughman is fondly called by all young and old, they made their way to bed, the smaller boys to their dormitory rooms in the building adjoining the mission residence, the older boys with Mr. Lam, as house-master, down the hillside to the small residence there, and the girls to the large room in the mission residence which is their dormitory.

Missionaries and teachers and children form one large family. Each one knows his part and his work in the family routine and from early morning to bed-time the scene is one of a big happy family. The sweet voices of the children are to be heard in the house and garden as they sing the only songs they know taken from the twenty songs in their little Iban hymn book. And the whole life of the family—school, work, play, and worship in our new pretty little church in Kapit town—is bound up with the Jesus' way of life, recognizing God as Father, and that all they have and are comes from Him.

**Younger children of the Iban Methodist Hostel, Kapit, playing games and enjoying themselves in the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Burr Baughman**

The Iban Mission is the outstanding project of our Board of Home Missions in Malaya. It deserves the support of every Methodist and every friend of our church. It is hoped that more and more information in the way of articles, pictures, and moving pictures may be made available to arouse the interest of Methodists in this very worthy work. As we state elsewhere, we are proud of the fact that the Malayan Church has sent its first missionary, Mr. Ng Tuck Wai, to this work and that he is now teaching in our school in Kapit. It is not enough to let these missionraies work, we must work, too.

*—H.B.A.*

**Older students at work and play in the evening in the Mission residence at Kapit**

*Two days of worship, dedications, pageants and fine fellowship are reviewed here by the Editor.*

# The Sarawak Jubilee

June 27—28, 1951

A HUSH SETTLED on the great congregation assembled in the Masland Memorial Methodist Church, Sibu, on Wednesday morning, June 27, as the choir and those participating in the Jubilee programme marched into the church in procession and took their places in the chancel. This marked the culmination of preparations which had begun a year ago when a Jubilee Committee was formed to make plans, raise money, and bring to pass a suitable celebration to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak, Borneo.

As the official guests and delegates arrived in Sibu they were given a beautiful badge with ribbons in honour of the occasion. This badge was locally designed and represents in the centre an open Bible overlaid by a map of Borneo, on which Sarawak is marked in white, and Bible and map overlaid by the cross on which stands a single Chinese character, "love," while hovering just above is the dove of peace.

## Cornerstone Laying of the Memorial Hall

The Jubilee celebration began with a ceremony on the site of the Memorial Hall Building which is being erected at a cost of $50,000 as a token of the love and affection of the Methodists in Sarawak toward their Church. This memory hall will contain a large assembly room on the ground floor which will be used as a reading room, as a classroom, and will be the centre of the Sibu MYF activities of the future. The first floor will contain five bedrooms, some to be used by teachers and Bible women, and at least two to be set aside for the use of pastors and laymen whenever they come to Sibu town. This building will form a prominent part in the Methodist Church compound which is situated right in the centre of Sibu island. It will stand directly behind the Masland Memorial Church, Welch Hall, and the new Hoover Memorial School building, and next door to the Kindergarten building. The new Mission residence is also on the same compound, as will be seen from the picture on page 11.

At nine in the morning Bishop Archer, surrounded by the District Superintendents and other leaders of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak, placed a brass plate on one of the main posts of the building. This took the place of the usual cornerstone laying, for Sarawak is so bereft of stone that this ceremony takes the place of the usual cornerstone laying. The Bishop gave a brief address which was preceded by a short devotional service. Several hundred people assembled to witness this ceremony.

## Fiftieth Anniversary Service of Worship

Promptly at 10 a.m. the Anniversary Service of Worship began in the Masland Memorial Church on Island Road, Sibu, Sarawak. The Rev. Wong King Huo was Chairman and Mrs. Eugene McGraw organist, with Mr. John Pilley as choirmaster. The Chien Hwa band played suitable music for the prelude and postlude at this service.

The Committee had very beautifully and suitably decorated the sanctuary for this occasion. The iron wood benches were moved as close together as possible and at least 200 extra chairs were brought in so that a capacity congregation might be seated. Even then, as many as could find standing room were also accommodated. The

—E. O. McGraw

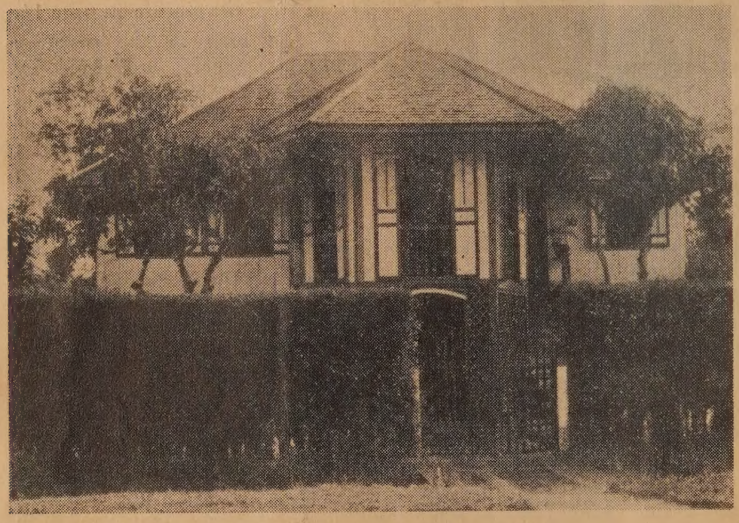
**Scenes in the Masland Memorial Church: The congregation; Bishop Archer preaching; Bishop Archer fixing the plate on a post of the Memory Building**

wall behind the chancel was decorated with large Chinese inscriptions commemorating the occasion, written in classical Chinese by Dr. Andrew K. T. Chen. Friends from Singapore and elsewhere had also sent framed inscriptions to honour the occasion. The posts and other parts of the sanctuary were beautifully decorated with artificial flowers and the church presented a most beautiful and worshipful atmosphere.

The service began with a processional hymn and a prayer led by Rev. Wong Tung Sing, of the Masland Memorial Church. After an introductory speech by the Chairman, Mr. Ling Kai Cheng read a brief history of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak. (See the history on page 16). The mixed choir sang an anthem in Mandarin, after which a number of congratulatory telegrams were read. The Rev. Paul S. H. Hang, of the Chinese Malaysia Conference, brought greetings and presented a most interesting Chinese picture illustrating the growth of the Methodist church in Sarawak. He was followed by Dr. H. B. Amstutz who spoke on behalf of the Malaya Annual Conference. Bishop R. L. Archer then gave the sermon (a digest of this will be found on page 4). After another anthem by the choir the Hon. the Resident of the Third Division, Mr. Morris, spoke on behalf of the Sarawak Government, and he was followed by the District Officer of Sibu who spoke on behalf of the district. Mr. Tay Jek Kie of Sourabaya also brought greetings from the Indonesian Chinese. The Rev. E. O. McGraw, resident missionary in Sibu, and the Rev. Ling Chi Su responded in English and in Chinese to these greetings after which the entire congregation joined in the Memorial Song which had been written specially for the occasion. Never before had such a large audience assembled in this church.

After the Benediction, pronounced by the Bishop, the entire congregation and visitors assembled on the playing field behind the new Hoover Memorial School building for the large photograph shown on pages 12 and 13.

**The first church/school building of the Methodist Church in Sarawak at Sungei Merah. The Hoovers lived in this building after their marriage.**



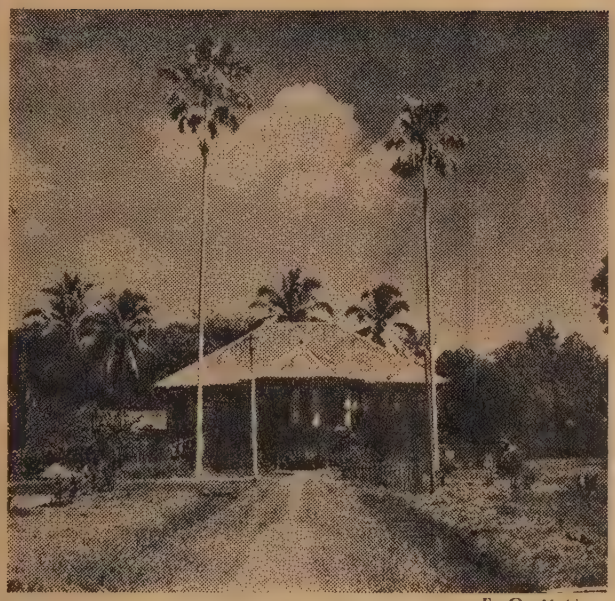
**The old Mission residence—home of the Hoovers and other missionaries until it was torn down in 1949**

## Dedication of New Orphanage Building

As a result of a very vigorous campaign conducted by Mrs. John Pilley, assisted by members of the Foochow community, an orphanage building has been nearly completed adjacent to the Mission residence on Telephone Road, about one mile from the town of Sibu. In the January issue of *The Malaysia Message* we featured the presentation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" by the Methodist Chinese High School on Telephone Road which netted the sum of $5,000 as the first payment on this project.

At 2.30 p.m. on the afternoon of June 27, a considerable audience composed of ministers, laymen, and visitors assembled at

**The old Methodist Girls School and hostel—torn down in 1949**



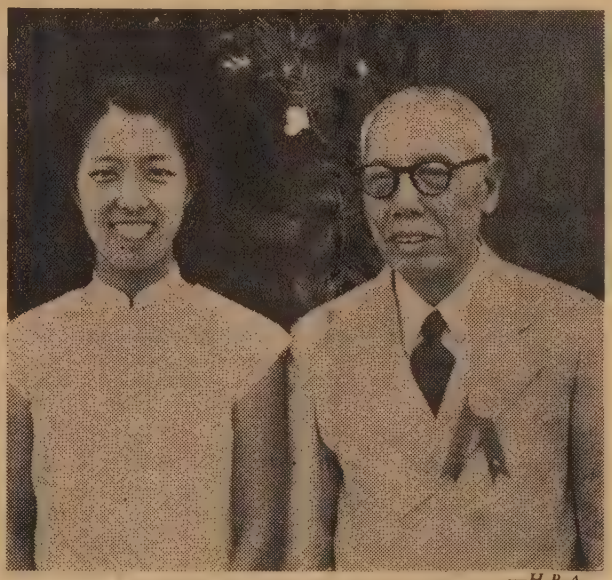
—*E. O. McGraw*

**The Mission residence newly acquired on Telephone Road**

the orphanage building, now nearly completed, for the usual Sarawak type of cornerstone laying ceremony. It began with a brief devotional service and an address by Bishop R. L. Archer, which was interpreted by Miss Ivy Chou. Then an orphan girl, now living in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pilley, gave the Bishop a brass plate suitably engraved, to nail onto a beam of the building. The building is made entirely of wood and consists of a ground floor and first floor with kitchen and sanitary facilities.

Following the Jubilee the Bishop appointed the Rev. and Mrs. Ling Wen Tsung as superintendents of this project. The building was expected to be completed in August so that the orphanage could be officially opened in September.

After the orphanage dedication the pastors and visitors went to the Telephone Road School site for an inspection of the completed ten-classroom section of the Summer's Memorial School Building. As will be seen in the photograph, on page 15, the building is of reinforced concrete, similar in every way to the modern school buildings *The Methodist Church* has recently completed in Malaya. The Telephone Road Site has been greatly improved during the past year. The Women's Hostel building, which was built from usable timbers of the original girls' school and hostel and Mission residence on Island Road, Sibu, was completed more than a year ago and has been serving as a girls' hostel, as well as giving classroom facilities for the Chinese High School. Behind the girls' hostel is the school dining room, kitchen and sanitary block for the girls' hostel. At right angles to the girls' hostel is a temporary building now used as a school chapel. The chancel which has been beautifully designed and decorated makes a most worshipful place for



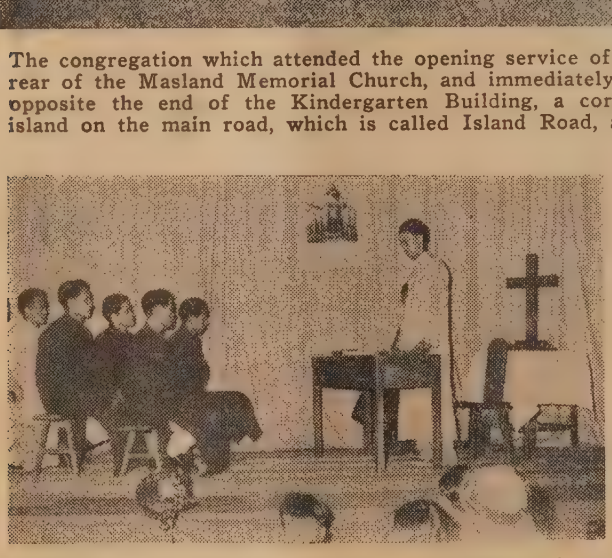
—*H.B.A.*

**Miss Ivy Chou and Dr. Andrew K. T. Chen—the first and last arrival from Foochow present at the Jubilee Celebrations**

—*E. O. McGraw*

**The Mission residence, Hoover Memorial School, the Kindergarten, and the Masland Memorial Church on Island Road, Sibu, Sarawak**

The congregation which attended the opening service of the Jubilee celebrations at Sibu, Sarawak, Borneo. A portion o rear of the Masland Memorial Church, and immediately behind that a portion of the Welch Hall which also serves as the opposite the end of the Kindergarten Building, a corner of which can be seen on the upper left of the picture. The island on the main road, which is called Island Road, and which leads from the Pasar to the Government Offices and Re together, thus giving the Hoover Memorial School Building in th



Scene I of the Historical Pageant. The Pastor of the church at Foochow urging his members to accompany Mr. Wong Nai Siong to Sibu. Mr. Wong seated behind the pastor

chapel, MYF and other services. Next to this building is a new sanitary block for the boys' hostel which is at present housed in a building made up of left-overs from the bombed Kindergarten and other buildings on Island Road. It is hoped to add another hostel building to the right of the present Summer's Memorial building which will then house the women and the present women's hostel to be used by the boys. Three classrooms of the new Summer's Memorial building on the first floor are now also used as a temporary hostel for the boys. When funds are in hand and building materials available it is hoped to complete the Summer's Memorial project by placing a large building at right angles to the present building thus forming a T-shaped building. This will house the science and staff rooms on the ground floor and a large assembly hall on the first floor. After the inspection of the buildings the visitors were entertained with refreshments in the girls' hostel building.

### Chinese High School Concert

A capacity audience crowded the temporary chapel hall in eager anticipation of the evening concert given on June 27. All of the items were by the students of

Scene II of the Historical Pageant. Mr. Wong Nai Siong and Mr. Ling Chin Nee reassuring the colonists in the immigration detention in Singapore

new Mission residence can be seen at the extreme right; at the immediate left of the school building you can see the ıe of the pastor and the residence of the District Superintendent. The new Memory Hall Building is being built just e are facing the school playing field. Our Methodist compound is located in the exact geographical centre of Sibu es. (The photograph is an interesting example of a photographer's skill. It had to be taken in two sections and joined kground the appearance of being built in the shape of an angle.)

Methodist Chinese High School and were given in Mandarin. The items were the usual school programme items: chorus numbers and solos accompanied by a small orchestra, dancing and skits, plus a very excellent one-act play in which some of the main characters of "Romeo and Juliet" participated. The entire programme was evidence of the fine spirit and the high grade of training now obtained in this school.

### The Second Day of the Jubilee

The morning of June 28 was completely taken with actions authorised by the Malaya Annual Conference, the

Scene III of the Historical Pageant depicting Andrew K. T. Chen teaching the congregation to sing a hymn. Mr. Wong Nai Siong seated at table

—*H.B.A.*

Scene IV of the Historical Pageant. Mrs. J. M. Hoover and the first girls of the Methodist Girls' School in Sibu

election of the Orphange Committee and business items brought forward by the Central Committee. The first item on the morning's programme was the ordination as Deacon of the Rev. Lau Kie Ngie which was conducted by Bishop R. L. Archer. The morning session was attended by the ministers and the official delegates from the churches who form the Sarawak Central Committee, which acts on behalf of the Malaya Annual Conference and its Field Committee.

### Dedication of the Sungei Merah Church

At 2 p.m. on June 28 another capacity audience filled the new church building at Sungei Merah, known in the

—*H.B.A.*

**Scene VI of the Historical Pageant depicting the Rev. J. M. Hoover listening to the Dyak and his Chinese coolie friend**

Foochow dialect as the Sing Ang Cio Methodist Church. Dr. Andrew K. T. Chen, who had come to Sibu in charge of the second group of immigrants fifty years ago at the age of only 18 years, gave the memorial address and Bishop R. L. Archer, assisted by the District Superintendent, Rev. James Ling, dedicated the church.

This church has a very interesting history which was featured that evening in the pageant. It was at Sungei Merah that the Foochow colonists first settled and it was there that Mr. Wong Nai Siong, the Rev. Wong King Huo, the late Rev. J. M. Hoover and others, formed the Sungei Merah congregation. Its first sanetuary was on the banks of Sungei Merah (Red River) and was an attap roofed and sided building. (See picture on page 10.) The sides were later boarded and the building provided space for a one-classroom school on the ground floor, a chapel on the first floor, and two small rooms which were the first residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hoover after their marriage. In 1936, during the Annual Pastors' School conducted by Dr. H. B. Amstutz in Sibu, Bishop E. F. Lee, assisted by the late Rev. Gerald V. Summers, then on his first visit to Sarawak, dedicated the second church building which was a church with school building in the form of a large U and is still located on the top of a little hill overlooking the main road between Sungei Merah and Sibu.

Before the war a two-storey memorial building had been erected in memory of Mr. Hoover on the site of the new church just dedicated. This building was destroyed by Allied bombing in the last months of the Pacific War. When Crusade Funds made it possible to rebuild the same it was decided to use the entire building on the top of the hill for the school and make the new building into a sanctuary. This has been done as will be seen by the pictures on page 18.

### The Jubilee Dinner

No great celebration of this kind could possibly be held without a suitable dinner as a part of the programme. On Thursday afternoon, June 28, several hundred guests were entertained at a very sumptuous Chinese dinner. The first floor classrooms of the Hoover Memorial School Building had been turned into dining rooms. The guests were eight to a table and represented the Sarawak Government, *The Methodist Church,* the business community and friends. There was much conversation, hilarity, and good fellowship throughout the dinner hour. Replete with food and in excellent good humour the guests left the improvised dining hall for the Masland Memorial Church where the final item in the Jubilee programme was soon to be presented.

### Youth Night Programme

The concluding programme of the two-day Jubilee celebrations took place in the Masland Memorial Church, Sibu. The chancel of the church had been covered with a platform, making a stage. Stage curtains had been hung and everything was ready for the great final programme of the Jubilee which began promptly at 7 p.m. on June 28. The entire programme was under the auspices of the Sibu MYF and the Chairman was the President of the MYF, Mr. Yao Ping Hwa. Mrs. Eugene MacGraw was the organist.

The first part of the programme consisted of various devotional and musical items, including a one-act play entitled "Empty Hands," but the main feature of the evening's programme was a historical pagaent in seven scenes vividly describing the fifty years of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak. Miss Ivy Chou went to a great deal of care to gather all the historical facts possible, out of which she wrote the seven scenes and the accompanying dialogue. All of the acting was done by the young people of the MYF. The scenes were as follows:

—*E. O. McGraw*

**Scenes at the Dedication of the Orphanage Building: Bishop Archer fixing the plate; the nearly completed building; Bishop Archer speaking**

Scene I. The scene was set in a church in Foochow. Mr. Wong Nai Siong, the promoter in charge of bringing colonists to Sarawak, spoke to a group of Foochow Methodist Christians telling them about the opportunities in Sarawak, what the Rajah was offering in the way of land, and urged them to go with him. In the photograph we see the pastor of the Methodist Church in Foochow urging the people to follow Mr. Wong. Various people in the group asked Mr. Wong many questions all of which he answered. The actors were dressed in the costumes worn fifty years ago and the men were complete with queues. (See photo page 12).

Scene II. This scene was at the quarantine dock in Singapore. The colonists had been taken off their ship from China and put in a barricaded area. They were obviously frightened and very much worried. Two dock coolies came and told them to run away for they assured them they would be sold as slaves in Sarawak. One of their number leaped over the fence and ran away but soon Mr. Wong Nai Siong and Mr. Ling Chin Nee appeared to assure them that they would go to Sibu in a few days. (See photo page 12).

Scene III. This scene is in a humble home at Sungei Merah. It is a service of worship and a young man by the name of Andrew K. T. Chen, who was in charge of the second group of colonists, is teaching the congregation how to sing a hymn. (See photo page 13).

Scene IV. The scene is in the classroom of Mrs. Hoover's first girls' school. The girls, dressed as they were in those days with long hair down their backs, put on a very amusing episode. Mrs Hoover, then a slim young woman, was a sympathetic and kind teacher drying the tears of one girl who was lonesome for her mother, helping another with her embroidery, and in one way or another making the girls happy and contented. (See photo page 13).

Scene V. The scene is in Mr. Hoover's living-room. The Resident has come to see him about the desperate situation the colonists are in due to a period of slump and depression when they could not meet their taxes and payments. Mr. Hoover, as their representative and protector, makes a bold suggestion to the government which the Resident accepts and which the colonists completely

—*E. O. McGraw*

**The completed ten-classroom section of the Summers' Memorial School on Telephone Road, Sibu, Sarawak**

—*E. O. McGraw*

**Students of the Methodist English School, Telephone Road, with a model of the buildings of the Summers' Memorial**

honoured in the years to come. This is but an example of the many ways in which Mr. Hoover was able to help his people.

Scene VI. The scene is again in Mr. Hoover's living-room. A Chinese coolie and Dyak friend comes to seek Mr. Hoover's help. The Dyak speaks Malay, airs his grievances, and Mr. Hoover promises to do what he can for him. (See photo page 14).

Scene VII. The scene is in a Christian home in Sibu. A father and mother and two children, a boy and a girl, make up the family; a friend also drops in. It is evening and the family assemble together for evening worship before they retire. (This episode formed a very fitting conclusion to what had been a truly remarkable historical pagaent.)

An unexpected item in the programme which came between Scenes III and IV was Dr. Andrew K. T. Chen's appearance on the platform. We had just seen him as a youth of 18 directing the singing of the first congregation at Sungei Merah and now at the age of 68 he sang a solo "Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea." The entire programme was in Mandarin.

—*H.B.A.*

**The Girls' Hostel on the Telephone Road School Site. This building was constructed out of timbers taken from the old girls' school and hostel building and the old Mission residence on Island Road**

*Mr. Ling is the Lay Leader and also Treasurer of the Sarawak Churches.*

# A Brief History Of The Methodist Church In Sarawak 1901 To 1951

MR. LING KAI CHENG

THE HISTORY of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak dates back to the winter of 1900 when a group of Foochow Christians, led by Mr. Wong Nai Siong, arrived at Sibu to form a settlement. Soon afterwards, in 1901, a church with attap roof and sides was erected at Sungei Merah and was the first Methodist Church in Sarawak. In quick succession followed the establishment of churches in Ensurai, Sadit, Sungei Nawah and Sungei Ma'aw.

The first missionary, the Rev. J. M. Hoover, was appointed in 1903 to reside in Sibu District. He founded the Methodist Boys' School in Sungei Merah. Thus, for the first time, the boys had a chance to study English and Chinese.

In 1904, Mrs. Mary Y. Hoover came from Penang to join her husband. Their residence was at Sungei Merah in the church school building. When Mr. Wong Nai Siong, then in charge of the settlement, returned to China, the Rajah of Sarawak appointed Mr. Hoover to be the Head of the Foochow people.

In 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover moved the Boys' School to the Sibu Bazaar where the teaching was conducted in three wooden shops located along the riverside. The school was moved again in 1908 and this time to a new school building on Island Road. This building was pulled down in 1949 and replaced by the Hoover Memorial Building.

In 1912, Rev. Mr. Brewster brought Hinghwa Christians to settle at the place now called Hinghwa Ba where a church was soon founded. Meanwhile, the population had increased and spread out along the river so fast that in the next two decades, various churches were founded: in Sarikei in 1917, Binatang in 1921, Bintulu in 1930, and many other places. In 1935, there were 44 churches, with 41 schools attached, in all parts of the Foochow and Hinghwa settlements. Unfortunately the Rev. J. M. Hoover died on the 11th of February of the same year, in the government hospital, Kuching. However, his Christian spirit lives on as a good example to the living members of *The Methodist Church* in Sarawak.

In 1936, the Central Committee was organized to assist the church work. In addition, the Rev. Wong King Huo and the Rev. Lee Hock Heng were appointed by Bishop Lee as District Superintendents. In the same year, a church was founded in Kapit.

During the period, 1937 and 1938, the people in Kwantung Ba requested our Church to help them to found schools and worship places in their locality. Consequently, seven worship places were established. The lack of Cantonese speaking workers, unfortunately, has greatly hampered the progress of the work.

In order to carry the Gospel to the Dyaks, the Rev. Paul Schmucker was appointed in 1939 to start the work, with headquarters at Kapit. After the war, the Rev. Burr Baughman re-opened the Dyak work with great success.

The Church suffered great hardships and difficulties from 1942 to 1946, during the Japanese occupation. To cope with the situation, the administration was temporarily divided into five districts under supervision of five pastors, one for each district, who were elected by the Central Committee. The Rev. Gerald Summers, resident missionary, was interned by the Japanese and died in Singapore on September 1, 1945.

In 1946, when peace prevailed again, the Rev. E. McGraw was sent here as superintendent to assist the mission work in co-operation with Superintendents Rev. Wong King Huo and Rev. Wong Dung Sing.

The self-supporting Superintendent, Mr. Wong King Huo, retired in December, 1949, and his work was taken over by the Rev. James Ling in 1950. In February, 1950, Dr. R. L. Archer was elected to be our new Bishop.

The year 1951 gives us great joy as we report the following statistics:

a. Churches .. .. .. 50
   Preaching places .. .. 12

b. Total members, baptised children and adherents 12,864. Of these, 7101 are adults, 5763 are children.

c. Personnel:
   Full-time pastors, .. .. 18
   Full-time Bible women .. 7
   Part-time preachers .. 8
   Self-supporting preachers 2
   Missionaries, .. .. 8

d. Educational facilities:
   Affiliated Schools .. .. 60
   Directly administered schools:
   Kindergarten .. .. 1
   Chinese Primary School .. 1
   Chinese High School, both Senior and Junior .. 1
   English School .. .. 1
   Dyak Schools .. .. 2

Rev. Ling Wen Tsung has been the principal for the Chinese High School, Mr. Luk Sung Sing of the Primary School, and Mr. J. A. Pilley of the English School.

These are the accomplishments of *The Methodist Church* after fifty years in Sarawak. Upon this occasion we feel happy to celebrate our *Fiftieth Anniversary*. We thank our Heavenly Father for his blessings. We also thank our Government for the protection of our work. And last of all, we thank our people whose cooperation and Christian spirit have helped to build up this place and establish the Church and to make possible this occasion to glorify Our Heavenly Father's name.

*Methodism in Sarawak is rapidly becoming church conscious.*

# Dedication of Three New Churches

## Hinghua Ba Church

SARAWAK METHODISM not only celebrated its Jubilee in June 1951 but also marked that Jubilee by the Dedication of three churches at Hinghua Ba, Sungei Merah, and at Guong Hua.

The Church at Hinghua Ba was built out of Crusade Funds, plus local contributions, to replace the church and school building which was destroyed by Allied bombing during the last phases of the Pacific War. This church site is on a hill overlooking the Sungei Merah District and the new church faces the main road which leads from Sibu out to the new airport.

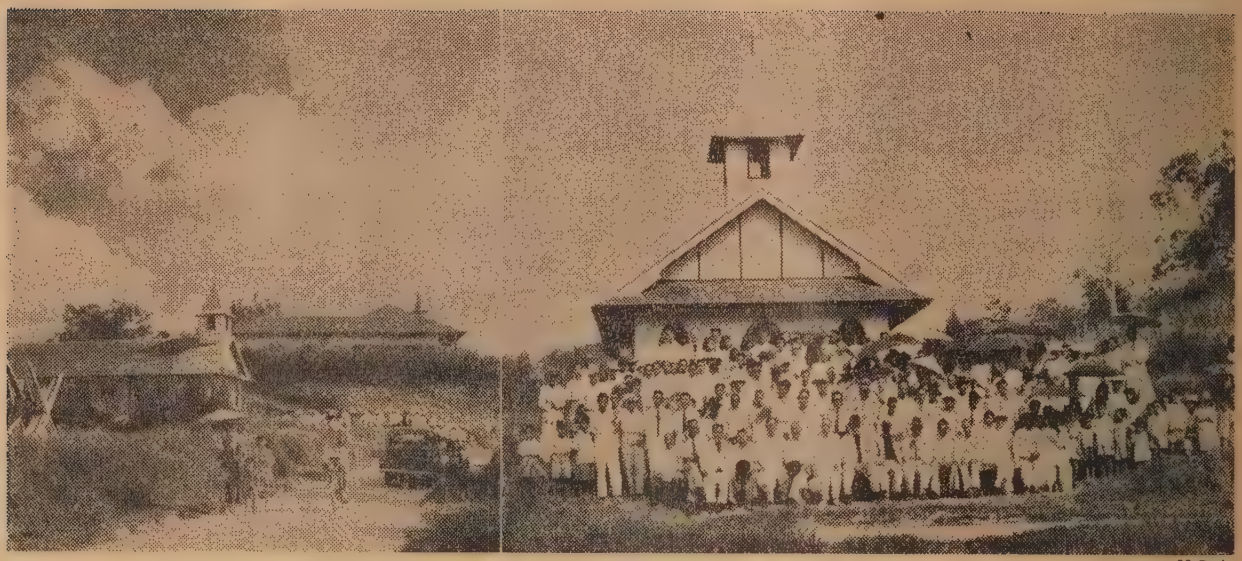
The prewar church building was a two-storey building with school rooms on the ground-floor. The new church is a single-storey building, as will be seen from the photographs on the cover and this page, and is similar to many of our other church buildings in Sarawak. Most of our Methodist work lies in the great delta region of the Rejang River. It is very difficult to obtain sand and stones for building materials in this area, and consequently most of our school and church buildings are built of wood.

On Sunday morning, July 1, the pastors attending the Pastors' School, plus a large congregation, attended the Dedicatory Service which was conducted by the District Superintendent, the Rev. James Ling. Bishop R. L. Archer preached the sermon on the subject "The Foundation of the Christian Church," which was interpreted by Miss Carol Wong, and then later the Bishop dedicated the church.

A feature of this church, which is a feature now common to many of our Sarawak churches, is a painted picture of Christ in Gethsemane (the well-known Hoffman picture). After the death of Mr. Hoover, Bishop E. F. Lee inaugurated a fund through the Malaya Annual Conference, to place a memorial picture in the big Masalnd Memorial Church in Sibu in Mr. Hoover's memory. This fund was subscribed to by friends of Mr. Hoover's not only of Malaya, but in England and the U.S.A., and an art glass window was placed in the church wall over the chancel. This window, together with another very beautiful art glass window in the front of the church, was destroyed by Allied bombing. After the restoration of the church a local artist painted a copy of this picture on a wooden base and this has been recopied and is to be found in all three of the newly dedicated churches, as well as in other Sarawak churches.

Mr. Yu Teck Soi, a senior student of Trinity College, has been appointed interim pastor of this church until his return to the College in late September. As is true of most of our church centres there is also a school at Hinghua Ba. The present building was constructed out of the remains of the pre-war structures left after the bombing. Plans are under way for the construction of a better building in the immediate future.

**The congregation after the dedication of the Hinghua Ba Church**



—*H.B.A.*

**The Sungei Merah (Sing Ang Cio) Methodist Church at the Dedication on June 28. The picture on the left shows the second church and school building on the top of the hill and the new church building**

## Sungei Merah Church—Sing Ang Cio

ONE OF THE FEATURES of the Jubilee celebrations on Thursday, June 28, was the dedication of this new church building. The original Sungei Merah Church, as shown in the picture, was located on the northern side of Sungei Merah. It housed a school on the ground floor and the church and the first home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hoover on the first floor. This building was originally covered with attap both roof and sides, but later the sides were boarded. The Hoovers occupied two small rooms on the eastern end. In 1936 this building was replaced by a new church school building located on the top of a hill, a short distance down the road toward Sibu. This was dedicated by Bishop E. F. Lee during the 1936 Pastors' School, and the late Rev. G. V. Summers was present together with Dr. H. B. Amstutz. Shortly before the war a building was built, on the side of the little hill crowned by the church school building, as a memorial to the late Rev. J. H. Hoover. This building was destroyed by Allied bombing and has now been replaced, with the aid of Crusade Funds, by the present church building. When it was decided to rebuild this building it seemed wisest to use the older building on top of the hill entirely for school purposes and make this new building a church sanctuary. It is thus the third church building to house the Sungei Merah congregation. The project also include a well-built and useful manse at the rear of the church.

The Dedication took place at 2 p.m. on June 28. Dr. Andrew K. T. Chen, who had come to Sibu with the second group of immigrants, gave the Dedicatory sermon. Bishop R. L. Archer, assisted by Mr. Ling Wen Tsung as interpreter, thereupon dedicated the church. The Rev. James Ling, Dist. Superintendent, was in charge of the service. A very large congregation filled the church to overflowing and after the Dedicatory Service refreshments were served and a photograph was taken.

Mr. Yu Teck Soi has also been appointed interim pastor of this church until his return to Trinity College in late September.

## Guong Hua Church

THE ERECTION OF THIS CHURCH building was begun prewar but it was not completed until early this year. It stands about half a mile back from the river. It takes an hour's launch trip from Sibu to reach the landing place, after which you walk through rubber estates along a well-worn path to the church-school site. Guong Hua has for many years been one of our largest religious centres and the school buildings consist not only of classrooms, and chapel, but also a large dormitory for boys.

The Guong Hua Church is one of our larger churches, probably the second largest in Sarawak, and a new manse has been built on the same compound. The Rev. Ling

—*H.B.A.*

**Leaving the launch at the jelatang (floating wharf) for visit to the Guong Hua Church for its dedication**

**The congregation after the dedication of the Guong Hua Church on Sunday July 1, 1951. The building on the right is the manse**

Kie Hieng is the pastor of this church and the Engkilo circuit. The dedication of this church took place at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, July 1. As this dedication fell during the week of the Pastors' School most of the pastors and Bible women, as well as many other friends from Sibu attended the Dedication Service. The large church was completely filled and a very fine service of Dedication was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Ling Kie Hieng. Bishop R. L. Archer preached the Dedicatory sermon on the subject, "Builders of the Church," which was interpreted by Mr. Ling Wen Tsung. The altar rail and chancel furniture were donated by one of the church members. The chancel is about four feet higher than the ground floor of the church, and has an apse in the rear center containing the communion table. The pulpit is on the right of the congregation and the lectern and the choir on the left. The building, the chancel arrangement, the choir, and the general work of this large church are a great credit to the work of their pastor.

—*H.B.A.*

**The School Hostel and Classrooms at Guong Hua**

## OUR METHODIST PULPIT

(*Continued from page 4*)

possessions to Christ, the matchless leader of our cause. If there are places where disloyalty and disunion have broken the fellowship of the church then we are doing injury to the body of Christ. We must be men big enough and Christlike enough to rise above petty differences and thus maintain the unity and strength of the Christian witness. A divided church can never be a victorious church.

We feel confident that it is God's will that the church should bring a new day to Sarawak and help make it a part of the new earth. That change will be revealed in the new quality of life brought to it by the Christians living here. We begin the second half of the century with much better church and school buildings and better equipment than available to the founders of our church fifty years ago. Unless we areproducing a better type of Christian as evidenced by the manner of his living in his home and by his relationships to his fellow men, by his growing intelligence and increasing loyalty to the cause of Christ, then we fear we have in fact little cause for rejoicing on this occasion. It is reasonable to believe that God will expect more of us during these coming years than he did of those who had to contend with the limitations which obtained during the beginning years.

Let us come therefore, in true humility before God to dedicate ourselves and all that we have to the task that awaits us, praying that he will use us in making the *new earth* a reality in this land and finally equip us for citizenship in the *new Heaven.*

MYF

# What's going on in the MYF

**The Sibu MYF Visiting Team with the pastor and church leaders outside of the Ah Po Church**

## GLIMPSES OF THE SIBU, SARAWAK, MYF

### The President, Mr. Yao Ping Hua, says . . .

I WOULD RECALL our MYF General Meeting held in December 1949, when many older members present consisdered that, in the interests of the younger members, it was advisable as well as reasonable for them to withdraw their membership in order to give better opportunity to the younger members to show their usefulness to the Church and apply themselves more closely to their task with greater assiduity and enthusiasm. Through this wise move, and since that date, the Sibu MYF has been truly an organization of young Christians of the Sibu Methodist Church.

Incidentally the Sibu MYF is the only establishment of its kind in Sarawak. It is our hope that in the very near future all the youths in the other churches in Sarawak wil set up their MYFs. If there is anything that we can do to help them, we are, of course, always willing to place ourselves at their disposal.

### The Installation of the 1951 Sibu MYF Cabinet

It was on a fine evening, January 20, when the MYF Installation was held under the leadership of our President, Mr. Yao Ping Hua. There were 16 of us installed. Since it was during the annual meeting of the Methodist ministers, the church was full of young and old. Our advisers, Mr. and Mrs. John Pilley, were among the others in the congregation, and our new adviser, Miss Ivy Chou, recently come from China, was then on the platform as the interpreter of our speaker, Bishop R. L. Archer.

When it came to the programme of installation the electric lights were put out, and the light of Jesus, represented by a big candle in the centre of the altar, was lighted. On both sides of the big candle, there were unlighted small candles for all of us. We went up two at a time, took our candles, lighted them from the big candle, and each said a scripture verse concerning the Light. As we all stood up there facing the congregation, the lights reflected on our faces, and revealed the reverence and determination we had in our hearts. Quietness and awe took hold of us so that everyone felt both inpired and challenged.

Truly I shall never forget the speech given by Bishop Archer that evening. It, indeed, lighted my heart with high esteem. Everybody in the church listened so attentively that even a drop of a pin could be heard. "Light," he said, "is the the sign of Christianity, no matter how dark the place is, it forces its way to its destination." We each could truly be a little light for Him, that all the darkness of the world could not be put out!

When we were going to say our pledge, we spoke up like soldiers of Christ, and each of us said it with feeling. Sincerely we answered the questions which Bishop Archer asked. He then extended his hand of welcome to us; as never before we experienced a sense of high honour and great responsibility. We said to our Lord within us: "We are willing, Send us, send us!"

EU HOW CHONG

### MYF Visiting Team

Under the leadership of Miss Chou and Pastor Cheng, our Visiting Team was established on the 4th of April. 1951. We have ten members. Our Chairman is Mr. Chan Ching Mou. The purposes of our visiting team are as follows: First, to go to comfort the patients in the hospital; second, to go to preach the gospel to the village, where there are no churches, and thirdly, to create friendship between MYFers.

As to visiting the hospital. though we cannot give the patients much help, we believe that we can give them a little comfort in their souls and hearts.

**A class of the night school run by the Sibu MYF**

For the second, we hope by our prayers and preaching that those who are not Christians may also believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The Spring of 1951, we visited Sungei Merah, Bukit Asit, Village Hinghwa, Bukit Lan, Ensurai, Hak Chung Huong, to provide Sunday services. We hope that we may get more knowledge and experience and then we may carry out real preaching. In our hearts we realize that it is our responsibility to carry out the holy will of our Lord, as Jesus told us, *Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.*

CHANG MING YU

## Easter Sunrise Service

Before Easter the Cabinet of the MYF held a meeting discussing how to celebrate this annual festival. We decided:

a. To take a free-will offering from the Chinese and the English school students to buy eggs to present to children at the Sunrise Service and to hospital patients.
b. To decorate the church for Easter Sunday.
c. To prepare a programme and decoration for a Sunrise Service outdoors.

At 6 a.m. of March 24, 1951, our members began the work, decorating the church and the ground where the Sunrise Service would be held. All the work was finished by evening.

On Easter morning at 6 a.m. more than 100 Christians gathered before the door of the Chinese Kindergarten. Wong Siu Mi and his sister Wong Sai Cheng, with Lou Hong Ngo, presented a short play "Peter comes home," directed by Mrs. J. Pilley and Miss Ivy Chou. During the play the doors of the Kindergarten opened to show the lighted Cross. Members of the MYF-sponsored Junior Church gave a "colour story" of Jesus death and resurrection, different colours representing the sad or happy parts. Night School students and Chinese High School girls sang songs. A quartette, consisting of the sisters Eda and Saroha Mamora and Pek Sieng and Gie Sieng Chang, sang "Ivory Palaces." A new MYFer, Li Ching Hiong, who was led to be a Christian through the night school, had gotten up very early to hide the eggs for the children to find. After the service there was an eager egg hunt.

The church was decorated with a lighted cross, and energetic MYF members had gathered quantities of ground pine, and the girl members at the Chinese School had made colourful paper flowers. Bright crepe paper streamers added to the festive appearance.

In the afternoon, the Visiting Team visited the hospital and took a coloured egg to every patient.

WEI HOU KWONG

**Miss Eda Mamora playing the organ in the Methodist English School Chapel**

**MYF members busily at work getting materials ready for the Junior Church in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pilley**

## MYF Night School

The MYF Night School began in the spring of 1950 in the Hoover Memorial School. The purpose of this is let some boys and girls without the opportunity to attend school during the day time, to have an opportunity to get knowledge at night. There are four nights a week (omitting Thursday and Saturday and Sunday) for them to study. School opens at 7.15 p.m. and closes at 9.15 p.m., and is divided into two periods every night. The second period of every Friday is a chapel period, all the classes meeting together in one room. The students are mostly Chinese, but there have been several Malays. There are two departments, Chinese and English. The Chinese department is divided into three classes, Primary III, IV, and V; and the English department consists of Standards I, III, IV, and V. The teachers of the night school are mostly Chinese Senior Middle School boys and a few English School students, under the guidance of Mrs. Pilley, Miss Chou and Mr. Yao. The total number of the students at the end of the term was about forty During the past term on the last Friday in every month there was a meeting for all the students and teachers. The students sang songs, played games and did tricks for teachers and their schoolmates to see. They were very happy as if they were brothers and sisters in one family.

The Spring Term of 1951 ended on May 22. On May 19 there was a final meeting held in the Kindergarten Building. Report cards were given to those students who wanted them. Prizes were presented for scholarship and attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Rackham of the Education Department were guests. A play, "Damon and Pythias," was given in English by Standard V. Several Malay dances and special musical numbers added to the pleasure. Finally there were refreshments for all, planned by two of the faithful students.

LING HENG SING

## Weekly Fellowship Meeting

MYF has a fellowship meeting every Saturday evening. In it the members enjoy real Christian fellowship. The participants are usually more than thirty. In this fellowship the foundation of the MYF is built. People having joined this fellowship are gradually becoming better and acknowledging God more. Besides, MYF members take turns leading the church service on Sunday night two times per mouth. It is a chance for MYF members to practice to take charge and to be witnesses for God's love. These meeting are all under the guidance of Mrs. Pilley and Miss Chou. In the future we will continue to improve.

FAN SIAW WEN

# MORE OR LESS PERSONAL. . . . .

**The Wong-Ling Wedding**

Mr. WONG HA HEE, second son of the Rev. and Mrs. WONG DONG SING of Binatang, and Miss LING UK ING, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LING KAI CHENG of Sibu, Sarawak, were married on Saturday, July 14. Mr. CHIU CHUEN KANG was the best man and Miss DIONG GIE SIENG was the bridesmaid. The ceremony took place in the Masland Memorial Methodist Church at 10 a.m. The Rev. JAMES LING officiated. assisted by the Rev. WONG KING HUO. Miss LIM SIOK LAN played the organ. After the ceremony the guests were entertained to a tea-party in the Kindergarten building.

* * * *

The Rev. J. HARRY HAINES, pastor of the Wesley Church, Ipoh, writes as follows:

"Recently Ipoh Wesley Church had the great joy of sending out the first missionary in its history and probably the first missionary that has been sent from the church in Malaya. Mr. NG TUCK WAI is the eldest son in one of the finest Christian families in Ipoh. His father for many years has been a leader in the Chinese Methodist Church. Tuck Wai after graduation from the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh, went to work for a commercial firm. In the church he has been a keen, active worker. At present he is Vice-President of the MYF, the director of the church choir and a teacher in the Sunday School. Recently along with some of the other young people he helped to organise a new Sunday School at Sungei Siput which after three Sundays has already an enrollment of 165. Back in 1947 Tuck Wai became interested in the work at Kapit through hearing Rev. Burr Baughman speak in Ipoh. Then recently he became quite sure that God was calling him to give his life for full time Christian service. On July 1 he was commissioned by the pastor of Wesley Church, Ipoh.

Another recruit from Ipoh was Mr. LAM KHUAN SENG who proceeded to Kapit to work there as a voluntary teacher for three months with the Rev. Burr Baughman. Mr. Lam thought he had a call to the Christian ministry and, in particular, to the work among the Iban people at Kapit, but very wisely wanted to see if the call was genuine or not. After a month or so at Kapit he realised that he was not really fitted for the work there and has thus accepted the opportunity to join the Dental College of the University of Malaya. He returned to Malaya in July.

**Mr. Lam Khuan Seng and Mr. Ng Tuck Wai**

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